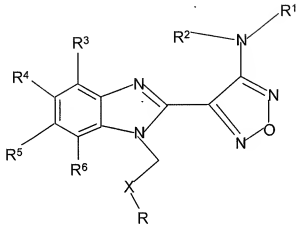
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22 Canceled.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



(I)

wherein

R represents phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, pyridinyl or pyridazinyl ring,

said phenyl ring being optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, acyloxy-lower alkyl, phenyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, hydroxy-lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy lower alkoxy, phenyl-lower alkoxy, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, lower alkoxycarbonylamino, lower alkycarbonylamino, substituted amino wherein the two substitutes on nitrogen form together with the nitrogen hetercyclcyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, formyl, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, halogen, and nitro; and wherein two adjacent substituents are methylenedioxy;

and said pyridinyl or pyridazinyl being optionally substituted in one or two positions with ~~lower~~ lower alkoxy, amino, or halogen;

X is –O- or >C=Y, wherein Y is oxygen;

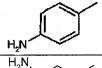
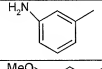
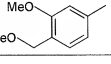
R^1 represents hydrogen, hydroxy-lower alkyl, cyano-lower alkyl~~,~~ **or** lower alkyl-carbonyl, ~~lower alkoxy-carbonyl or carboxy-lower alkyl~~ and

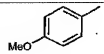
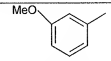
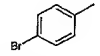
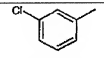
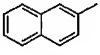
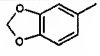
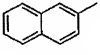
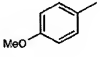
R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 is hydrogen;

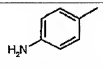
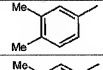
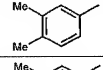
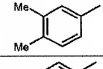
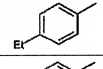
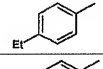
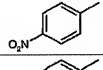
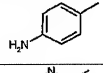
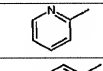
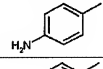
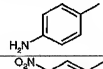
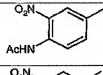
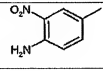
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

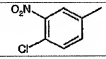
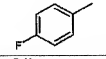
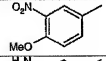
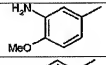
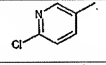
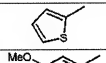
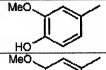
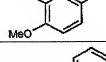
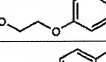
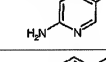
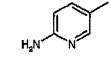
24. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 23 where ~~Y~~**X** is >C=Y**, wherein Y is oxygen,** or it's pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

25. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 24, which compounds are selected from the group consisting of the compounds 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, 29, 35, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 74, 76, 77, 78 and 79 ~~or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, which compounds are set forth according to the following table:

Compound	R	R^1
1		H
5		$(CO)CH_3$
6		CH_2CH_2CN
9		$CH_2CH_2(CO)OCH_3$
11		$CH_2CH_2CH_2OH$
13		$CH_2CH_2(CO)OH$
14		H
15		H

16		H
19		H
23		H
29		H
35		H
41		H
42		H
44		H
45		H
46		CH_2CH_2CN
47		CH_2CH_2CN
48		CH_2CH_2CN

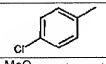
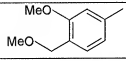
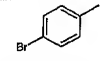
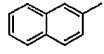
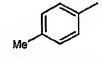
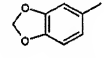
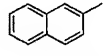
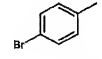
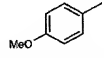
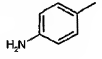
50		H
52		$CH_2CH_2CH_2OH$
53		H
54		CH_2CH_2CN
55		H
56		CH_2CH_2CN
57		CH_2CH_2CN
58		CH_2CH_2CN
59		H
61		CH2CH2CN
62		H
64		H
65		H

66		H
67		H
68		H
69		CH_2CH_2CN
70		H
72		H
74		H
76		H
77		H
78		H
79		CH_2CH_2CN

or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

26. (Previously Submitted) The compound of claim 24 wherein R^1 represents hydrogen or cyano-lower alkyl.

27. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 26 wherein the compounds are selected from the group consisting of the compounds 6, 15, 29, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 54, 56, 58, 61, 64, 70, 78 and 79 ~~or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, which compounds are set forth according to the following table:

Compound	R	R^1
6		CH_2CH_2CN
15		H
29		H
42		H
44		H
45		H
46		CH_2CH_2CN
47		CH_2CH_2CN
48		CH_2CH_2CN
50		H

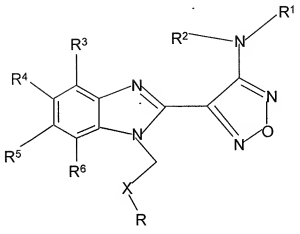
54		CH_2CH_2CN
56		CH_2CH_2CN
58		CH_2CH_2CN
61		CH2CH2CN
64		H
65		H
70		H
78		H
79		CH_2CH_2CN

or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

28. (Previously Submitted) The compound of claim 24, wherein R is phenyl.

29. (Previously Submitted) The compound of Claim 28 wherein said compound is 4-[1-(4-aminophenacyl)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl]-furazan-3-yl-N-(2-cyanoethyl)-amine or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

30. (Previously Submitted) The compound of claim 26 where the compound has the formula



(I)

wherein

R is pyridinyl optionally substituted in one or two positions by lower alkoxy, amino, or halogen;

X is -C=Y; Y is oxygen ;

R^1 is cyano-lower alkyl or hydrogen and;

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 is hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

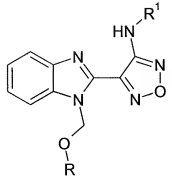
31. (Previously Submitted) The compound of Claim 30 wherein R^1 is cyano-lower alkyl.

32. (Previously Submitted) The compound of Claim 31 wherein said compound is 4-[1-(6-amino-3-pyridylcarbonyl)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl]-furazan-2-yl]-N-(2-cyanoethyl)-amine or its pharmaceutical acceptable salts.

33. (Previously Submitted) The compound of Claim 30 wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

34. (Previously Submitted) The compound of Claim 33 wherein said compound is 4-[1-(6-amino-3-pyridylcarbonyl)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl]-furazan-3-ylamine; or pharmaceutical acceptable salts thereof.

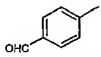
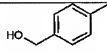
35. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 28 where ~~salts~~**said** compound has the formula



(IB)

~~to claim 28~~ which compound is selected from the group consisting of the compounds 7, 10, 88, 89, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 101 and 103~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof~~, which compounds are set forth according to the following table:

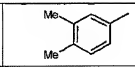
Compound	R	R^1
7		H
10		CH_2CH_2CN
88		H
89		H
92		H
93		CH_2CH_2CN

94		CH_2CH_2CN
95		CH_2CH_2CN
96		H
97		H
101		H
103		H

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

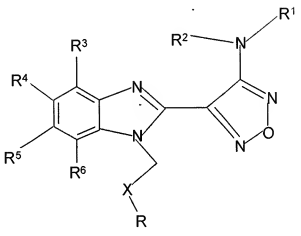
36. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 35, which compound is selected from the group consisting of the compounds 89, 92, 94 and 101 ~~**or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts**~~, which compound are set forth according to the following table:

Compound	R	R^1
89		H
92		H
94		CH_2CH_2CN

101		H

or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

37. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R represents phenyl or pyridinyl wherein phenyl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, acyloxy-lower alkyl, phenyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, hydroxy-lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy lower alkoxy, phenyl-lower alkoxy, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, lower alkoxycarbonylamino, lower alkylcarbonylamino, substituted amino wherein the two substituents on nitrogen form together with the nitrogen heterocyclyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, formyl, cyano, halogen, and nitro; and wherein two adjacent substituents are methylenedioxy; and wherein pyridinyl is optionally substituted by lower alkoxy, amino or halogen;

X is -C= Y and Y is nitrogen substituted by a**n** alkoxy;

R^1 represents hydrogen, lower alkylcarbonyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl or cyano-lower alkyl;

R^2, R^3 and R^6 represent hydrogen;
R^4 and R^5, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy; or R^4 and R^5 together represent methylenedioxy; or
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

38. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 37, which compound is selected from the group consisting of the compounds 18 and 22 ~~or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, which compounds are set forth according to the following table:

Compound	R	R^1
18		H
22		H

or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.